

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04006 190725Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----110643 190811Z /10

R 190615Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2389
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 4006

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EAID, JO, US, IS
SUBJECT: MAQARIN WATER RIGHTS

REF: A) AMMAN 3967, B) AMMAN 3961, C) STATE 160126

1. I MET JULY 18 WITH CROWN PRINCE, JVA HEAD
OMAR ABDULLAH AND NPC PRESIDENT ODEH.

2. CROWN PRINCE EXPLAINED PAPER IS ACCEPTABLE TO
JORDAN. HE INDICATED TWO CONCERNS. FIRST, JORDAN,
IN ABSENCE OF WEST BANK SETTLEMENT COULD NOT NOW
AGREE TO PROVIDE WATER TO WEST BANK. SECONDLY,
JORDAN DID NOT WANT PRESENT PAPER (EVEN AS A U.S.
DOCUMENT) TO BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY WHERE PERSONNEL NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS WOULD DEAL WITH IT AND WHERE IT WOULD
PROBABLY LEAK AND TURN INTO A MAJOR POLITICAL
ISSUE.

3. IN REPLY I INDICATED THAT PARAGRAPH ON WEST
BANK (PARA C OF WORKING PAPER) CAREFULLY DRAWN TO
AVOID JORDANIAN COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE WATER TO
SECRET

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WEST BANK NOW. SECONDLY, IF JORDAN'S PRESENT
ORAL AGREEMENT TO PAPER COULD BE MATCHED BY
SIMILAR ISRAELI RESPONSE, ALL WE WOULD ASK FOR IS
WRITTEN LETTER OF RECEIPT BY CROWN PRINCE IF
THAT WAS WHAT JORDAN WANTED, FOR WORKING PAPER.
OUR ORAL UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE THAT ALL PARTIES
WOULD KNOW THAT SUCH A RECEIPT FROM BOTH SIDES

WOULD INDICATE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE VALIDITY
OF THE U.S. WORKING PAPER. CROWN PRINCE SAID THIS
WAS FINE.

4. I ASKED ABOUT WORDING CHANGES. OMAR ABDULLAH
SAID HE WOULD GIVE THESE TO US, (HE IMPLIED ALONG
LINES DISCUSSED EARLIER) WITHIN NEXT 24 HOURS.

5. WE WILL FORWARD PROPOSED WORDING CHANGES,
WHICH WE EXPECT WILL BE TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING,
AS SOON AS RECEIVED HERE.

6. WE HOPE PROPOSED METHOD OF PROCEEDING
(PARA 3) WILL BE SATISFACTORY.

7. SUBSEQUENT TO DICTATING ABOVE, I MET WITH KING
HUSSEIN AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE WORKING PAPER. HE
SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO GOING AHEAD AS INDICATED.
HE FELT THE PAPER WOULD BE USEFUL IN DETERMINING
THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TOWARD
A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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